AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.(Currently Amended)   A method ~~of mapping dimension-based accounting data to allow segment-based reporting, the method~~ comprising:

accessing a dimension-based accounting database that defines multiple dimensions;

selecting a ~~set~~ plurality of dimensions from the dimension-based accounting ~~data~~ database for a segment-based account code structure;

defining an order for ~~the dimensions in~~ the ~~set~~plurality of selected dimensions;

~~to define~~defining the segment-based account code structure based on the order; and

a processor constructing a plurality of account codes based on ~~using~~ the segment-based account code structure and the dimension-based accounting databasedata ~~to construct account codes~~ by:

searching a table in the dimension-based accounting database comprising a separate dimension column for each dimension in the plurality of selected dimensions and at least one balance column for rows in the table that have a value in the at least one balance column;

for each row that has a value in the at least one balance column, retrieving a dimension value from a respective dimension column in the table for each dimension in the plurality of selected dimensions;

for each row that has a value in the at least one balance column, placing the values from the dimension columns in the order defined by the segment-based account code structure to construct an account code, and

storing the account codes.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein selecting a ~~set~~plurality of dimensions comprises validating values associated with the dimensions using rules associated with segment-based reporting.

3.   The method of claim 2 wherein validating a value comprises determining ~~if~~ whether the value includes a character other than a number that is not valid in an account code.

4.   The method of claim 2 wherein validating a value comprises determining ~~if~~ whether the length of the value exceeds a length set for the value.

5.   The method of claim 2 wherein validating a value comprises determining ~~if~~ whether the value is null.

6.   The method of claim 2 further comprising determining that a value violates a rule associated with segment-based reporting and providing an error message ~~if a value violates a rule associated with segment-based reporting~~.

7.   The method of claim 1 wherein defining the account code structure comprises generating table entries that link segments of the account code structure to dimension headings in tables in the dimension-based accounting database~~that contain the dimension-based data~~.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10- 21 (Canceled)

22. (New)   The method of claim 2 wherein validating values associated with dimensions comprises:

        selecting a company;

        searching a database table having a column containing identifiers for a plurality of companies and locating rows that contain an identifier for the selected company;

        for each located row, retrieving a value for a dimension; and

        validating the retrieved values.

23.(New)   The method of claim 22 wherein validating the retrieved values comprises:

        searching a data dimension length table for a row containing the identifier for the selected company and the dimension for the retrieved value;

        retrieving a maximum length from the row containing the identifier for the selected company and the dimension for the retrieved value;

        determining whether the number of characters in the retrieved value exceeds the retrieved maximum length.

24. (New) A computer storage medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

        constructing account codes based on a segment-based account code structure and a dimension-based database by:

            searching a table in the dimension-based database comprising a column for each dimension in a plurality of dimensions and at least one balance column for rows in the table that have a value in the at least one balance column;

            for each row that has a value in the at least one balance column, retrieving a dimension value from a dimension column in the table for each dimension in the plurality of dimensions;

placing the values from the dimension columns in an order defined by the segment-based account code structure to construct an account code, and

storing the account codes.